

**Testimony before the Environmental Conservation Committees
of the New York State Senate and Assembly
Regarding the Governor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal year 2018**

By Kathleen Curtis, LPN, Executive Director
February 13, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Governor's draft budget for fiscal year 2018. My name is Kathleen Curtis. I am the executive director of Clean and Healthy New York, which promotes safer chemicals, a sustainable economy, and a healthier world.

Today, I would like to focus my comments on two areas:

- 1) Support for the \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund and specific line items; and
- 2) Support for expanded funding for staff at the Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure laws passed by the legislature to protect New Yorkers from health and environmental degradation are fully implemented.

Support for the Environmental Protection Fund and Specific Line Items

Clean and Healthy New York unreservedly supports continued funding of the Environmental Protection Fund at \$300 million. This fund provides much needed resources to many projects that benefit our state and make it a better place to live. Within that funding we support allocations for:

- **Explicit funding for fire fighter disposal of perfluorinated compounds.** Perfluorinated compounds have been found in drinking water supplies, and fire fighting foam is one of the primary sources. There are safer materials to use during trainings. Fire fighters need a safe way to handle this hazardous waste.
- **New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYS P2I).** The NYS P2I has built a strong track record of helping New York's businesses become more sustainable, using and releasing fewer toxic chemicals, and reducing energy and water consumption. They provide technical assistance, help companies address environmental impacts of the supply chain, help new green technologies move to market, support community programs promoting pollution prevention. They are poised to play an increased role of helping companies reduce hazardous wastes, based on the companies' hazardous waste minimization plans submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation. New York State's investment in this program both improves our environment and strengthens our economy. We support direct funding to the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute in the amount of \$4 million, without removing funds for the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse, which we also support. This requires a change in the Governor's proposed budget (see below).
- **Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2).** The IC2 is a collaboration of state and municipal government agencies. It leverages the resources of participating states to provide